

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06

OMB-01 NIC-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 211510Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7869

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 5203 (NOTAL); BELGRADE 5214 (NOTAL)

1. QADHAFI WOUND UP POLITICAL TALKS IN BELGRADE AFTERNOON NOV 20 AFTER MORNING HELICOPTER RIDE TO ARMS AND TEXTILE FACTORY IN VALJEVO, SERBIA. BACK IN BELGRADE HE POSED FOR TV CAMERAS WITH SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE LOOKING ARAB AMBASSADORS, THEN HELD NEWS CONFERENCE. ASKED BY PRESS WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO BUY YUGOSLAV WEAPONS, QADHAFI EVADED REPLY. THIS EXCHANGE WAS NOT REPORTED YUGOSLAV MEDIA.

2. IN ADDITION TO SARAJEVO, QADHAFI WILL ALSO VISIT BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

CITIES MOSTAR AND KONJIC. FORMER TWO CITIES ARE PRIMARILY

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MOSLEM AND QADHAFI IS EXPECTED TO OBSERVE YUGOSLAV TREATMENT

OF MOSLEM RELIGION AND ISLAMIC CULTURE.

3. PERHAPS NOT BY COINCIDENCE, SARAJEVO IS MAIN YUGOSLAV NCO INFANTRY TRAINING CENTER, MOSTAR IS SITE OF FACTORY PRODUCING FIGHTER AND TRAINER AIRCRAFT, AND KONJIC IS LOCATED NEAR TWO MUNITIONS PLANTS.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER NOV 20, SOVIET DIPLOMAT HERE TOOK PARTICULAR PAINS TO ASSERT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION BETWEEN TITO-BREZHNEV TALKS IN KIEV AND QADHAFI VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID QADHAFI VISIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED BEFORE TITO LEFT FOR KIEV, THAT QADHAFI VISIT NOT DISCUSSED IN KIEV, AND THAT IT IS STRICTLY A YUGOSLAV-LIBYAN AFFAIR.

5. ITALIAN EMBASSY SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT QADHAFI'S ARRIVAL DELAYED ONE HOUR BECAUSE LARG FAILED TO REQUEST OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FROM ITALIANS, RESULTING IN ITALIAN AIR DEFENSE SCRAMBLE WHEN QADHAFI'S 707 ENTERED ITALIAN AIRSPACE.

6. JOINT COMMUNIQUE EXPECTED AFTER QADHAFI DEPARTS YUGOSLAVIA FOR PARIS THURSDAY.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE CLEAR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YUGOSLAV AND LIBYAN VIEWS ON MIDEAST (I.E. PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE ISRAELI STATE), QADHAFI APPEARS TO HAVE MODERATED TONE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN DEFERENCE TO YUGOSLAVS, AS EVIDENCED AT TUESDAY NEWS CONFERENCE WHEN LIBYAN LEADER QUERIED AS TO WHY HE WILL NOT ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. RATHER THAN CRITICIZE SADAT POLICIES, HE REPLIED ONLY THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO PRECIPITATE "CLASHZ AMONG ARAB LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA05244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731121/aaaaaozl.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 5203 (NOTAL); BELGRADE 5214
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, YO, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005